



COALITION FOR A  
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

To: The Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair  
The Honorable Ken Ito, Jr., Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Housing  
From: Deborah Zysman, MPH; Executive Director  
Hrg: House Committee on Housing, 3/21/2012, 9:00 am, Rm 325  
Re: **Support for HCR No. 135**

---

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR No 135, which urges the Hawaii Public Housing Authority to adopt rules prohibiting smoking in all public housing and state low-income housing projects.

The Coalition for a Tobacco Free Hawaii (Coalition) is the only independent organization in Hawaii whose sole mission is to reduce tobacco use through education, policy and advocacy. Our organization is a small nonprofit organization of over 100 member organizations and 2,000 advocates that works to create a healthy Hawaii through comprehensive tobacco prevention and control efforts.

We urge the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) to provide smoke-free housing for residents. Under new executive leadership we understand the HPHA is taking a serious look at this initiative. The Coalition looks forward to the opportunity to partner with HPHA on this initiative.

**Smoke-free housing is legal and the only way to prevent second-hand smoke exposure.**

A 2007 letter from the Honolulu HUD office indicates that “[r]egulating smoking in public housing units or in common areas is a local decision. In addition, according to the Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Civil Rights analyst, smokers are not a protected class under the Fair Housing Act.” Going smoke-free is lawful and promotes health. Housing units can already adopt their own rules to prohibit smoking.

Secondhand smoke is dangerous; the **U.S. Surgeon General in 2010 notes that any level of exposure to secondhand smoke is dangerous and can be harmful.** The International Agency for Research on Cancer and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency both note that environmental tobacco smoke (or secondhand smoke) is carcinogenic to humans. Secondhand smoke contains 7,000 identifiable chemicals, 69 of which are known or probable carcinogens.

The Coalition receives calls from residents who reside in public housing units and who have asthma and other health issues affected by secondhand smoke exposure. There is little assistance the Coalition can provide them. It is clear, however, that all residents—regardless if they have asthma, COPD or other health issues—are impacted by the hazards of secondhand smoke.

**All families deserve to live free of second-hand smoke. The only way to ensure this is to prohibit smoking in units.** The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) adopted a position that states, “[a]t present, the only means of effectively eliminating health risks associated with indoor exposure is to ban smoking activity. . . No other engineering approaching, including current and advanced dilution ventilation or air



COALITION FOR A  
TOBACCO-FREE HAWAII

cleaning technologies, have demonstrated or should be relied upon to control health risks from ETS [environmental tobacco smoke] exposure in spaces where smoking occurs.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Deborah Zysman, MPH  
Executive Director

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 8:56 AM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** starjenchan@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR135 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM HCR135

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jenny Chan  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [starjenchan@gmail.com](mailto:starjenchan@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:  
What an outrage!

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING

Rep. Rida T.R. Cabanilla, Chair  
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Rep. Mele Carroll	Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami
Rep. Jerry L. Chang	Rep. Mark M. Nakashima
Rep. Denny Coffman	Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine
Rep. Sharon E. Har	Rep. Cynthia Thielen
Rep. Robert N. Herkes	

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 21, 2012  
TIME: 9:00 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony from Michael Zehner,  
Hawaii Smokers Alliance

Testimony in Strong Opposition for: HR77, HCR135, HCR106, and HR102.

Relating to: Resolutions that seek to abridge the right to privacy in public housing

The Hawaii Smoker Alliance has been and continues to be in strong opposition to the social engineering agenda of the paid few in the anti-smoking lobby. Being poor or “down on one’s luck” does not remove a person’s right to privacy which is constitutionally protected. These resolutions call for a dangerous precedence, that precedence being; *that the government and its’ bureaucracy has the constitution power to remove a person’s right to quietly enjoy an otherwise legal activity in their own home.*

These resolutions are the depraved groundwork for an agenda that wishes to outlaw “unhealthy” behavior in other peoples’ bedrooms in privately owned residences as well. Several bills were introduced by the anti-smoking lobby this session trying to do just that in condos!

Honorable committee members, would you want some “health” fanatic/bureaucrat dictating what you do privately in your own bedroom just because some bigot out there disagrees with your lifestyle?

Mahalo.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 12:52 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** awatanabe67@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR135 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM HCR135

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Alan Watanabe  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [awatanabe67@gmail.com](mailto:awatanabe67@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments:

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 20, 2012 2:02 PM  
**To:** HSGtestimony  
**Cc:** konaking@live.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR135 on 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for HSG 3/21/2012 9:00:00 AM HCR135

Conference room: 325  
Testifier position: Oppose  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jeff Stevens  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [konaking@live.com](mailto:konaking@live.com)  
Submitted on: 3/20/2012

Comments: